

Shackled Memories

The days have slowly dragged on into years
But he...he sheds no more tears
For all that lingers now is a memory
A memory shackled to an old man
An old man he misses and will not forget

Walks together along the rough shores
A big strong hand and the feeling of being... secure
For now he knows there were two roads that he traveled
At the beginning, the one led by this hand
Later on, the one led by his heart

Roads that led through unknown fields
and little alleys, where one could easily get lost
The hand that showed the way,
the importance of staying focused... ... the hand that cared
For it was then that many of life` lessons were shared

The fishing trips
The taking of marks, casting nets and setting of traps
The value of taking a good mark
To remember where you were before

The driving lessons
The symbols that were taught
And how to apply them to life
Caution about making the wrong turn
The road you do not enter ...
The dead end road

The boxing matches
To respect all but fear none
That no shame lies in falling to your knees,
but much greatness in getting up again

The first word he printed
The word that turned into the pages of life
The value of reading
The importance of telling it as it is
A memory of an old man who he will never forget

And finally ... the card games
That in every pack there is a joker and a knave
That holding a good hand is often not enough
It is the better hand that wins
And that someday, someone is going to call your bluff

Then suddenly ... the road stopped, when so much was left unsaid
No turning back, no getting up, no other pack ... no last goodbye

Now he tries to compensate his absence with lingering memories
A task he knows he will never accomplish
So he will have to live on with these memories
Memories of a man who was more than just a teacher and good friend

But the mark was made and the memory remains
A memory shackled to an old man
A man he always misses and will never forget
A man who was a father
A man he called Dad



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